



# National Congress Bulletin

APRIL 1955

PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO 11 • VOL. 22, NO. 8



• Mrs. Newton P. Leonard at her P.T.A. desk in her home in Providence, R. I.

## Dear P. T. A. President:—

**I**S YOUR P.T.A. weary after the long winter's work? Are your officers and chairmen slowing down? Are your members beginning to drag their feet? Are you in the spring doldrums?

Then here's a tested prescription. It's guaranteed to put the spring back in your P.T.A.'s stride, to sharpen its vision of its tasks, and to create a hearty appetite for work.

### Rx for Spring Fever

Send a representative to our national convention in Chicago next month. If your state congress is holding a spring convention, send another representative to the state convention. There's no better tonic for a P.T.A. It's a tonic every P.T.A.—however strong and active—needs every year.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of the local unit's participation in state and national conventions. I want to discuss it from two points of view: First, what does a state or national convention offer to the local association? And second, what are the role and responsibility of the local unit in the state and national conventions?

### Custom-made for You

P.T.A. conventions, whether state or national, are designed with care and imagination to provide parent-teacher leaders with the information and skills—the subject-matter knowledge and the techniques—to work effectively for children's welfare. Delegates hear thoughtful, well-informed speakers analyze current problems with precision and insight. Through buzz sessions, workshops, and informal conferences

they participate in exploring and evaluating solutions. They sharpen their own thinking and are stimulated to try fresh approaches. They learn new techniques of working with people and fostering constructive group action.

Is programing a problem in your P.T.A.? Are you seeking an approach to the prevention of juvenile delinquency? Maybe you've found a new road through these or other difficulties. Whether you have problems or solutions, bring them with you. Conventions are opportunities to share problems and ideas. They are laboratories where lively, concerned minds act, react, and interact to invent improved ways to reach parent-teacher goals—the goals of your P.T.A.

### Your Responsibility

Now what is the role of the local unit in these conventions? You and your fellow P.T.A. members *are* the state congress and the National Congress. Together with every other P.T.A. member you share responsibility for charting the course of your state organization and your national organization. You and your fellow P.T.A. members should be represented at these important conventions that determine policies, choose courses of action, and elect state and national leaders.

If we are to demonstrate to every state and to the whole country that there exists a united power for children's welfare, we need your representative at the state and national conventions. We need the participation of every local unit if we are to strike vigorously and effectively against all forces and conditions inimical to children's interests. Don't shirk your responsibility. Send your delegate to augment our capacity to plan and act for children's good.

### While There's Time

Not infrequently during the past three years I have emphasized the need to organize more high school P.T.A.'s and to strengthen existing ones. The urgency grows with every passing year. We need high school associations at all times, but in the next few decades we shall need them desperately.

The Census Bureau has just reported that for the eighth consecutive year births have exceeded 3,500,000. "The population wave, which started in 1947, is still at the crest," says a bureau official, and "no decrease is in sight. . . ."

Our elementary schools are still reeling under the impact. Soon a mountainous wave of enrollments will overwhelm our high schools.

The time to act is now. Waurine Walker, president of the N.E.A., warns that unless we forestall the impending shortage of high school teachers, we shall have high school classes of sixty students by September 1957. Sixty students to a teacher! Is this how we plan to meet the critical needs of our teen-agers? Are we going to permit double and triple sessions in our high schools? What will the young people who attend abbreviated sessions do with vast amounts of unregulated leisure time? Are we going to sit by while the quality of high school programs declines and increasing numbers of students drop out before graduation? Can our

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

economy expand sufficiently to provide jobs for all our young people as they reach employment age? And are our schools equipping them to meet these varied job opportunities as they graduate?

These are problems that confront us. They are the concern of every parent of a child who is in elementary school today. Have you alerted your P.T.A. members to the facts? While there's yet time, let's build high school units that can take coordinated, effective action now to avert a crisis in the future.

#### New Publications To Help You

To encourage parents to remain P.T.A. members throughout their children's high school years, the National Congress has prepared a leaflet called *Don't Be a Dropout Parent*. Will your P.T.A. take the responsibility for putting this leaflet into the hands of the parents of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders—the children who will soon be entering junior or four-year high schools? Last month each state congress

received a free quantity equal to twice its number of local units. Therefore you should soon receive a copy to examine. You can order the leaflet at quantity rates for distribution in your P.T.A. (see page 8).

If you haven't seen a copy of our pamphlet *Working with Youth Through the High School P.T.A.*, look for it at the state and national conventions. And while you're at the conventions, consult with other delegates on the organization and work of high school associations. Our young people are depending on us to safeguard their educational opportunities. We must not let them down, now or in the future.

Cordially yours,

*Lucille P. Leonard*

MRS. NEWTON P. LEONARD, President  
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

## THROUGH OUR FIELDGLASS

### Expandable Treasury

In Taos, New Mexico, they tell the story of the P.T.A. that stretched \$250 to provide a playground complete with equipment and a safety fence—without actually spending a penny of the sum itself!

Two years ago members realized the acute need for a playground near school. They priced a suitable lot close by and found that it could be purchased for \$300 (the unit's total treasury). Then they approached the local school board and pointed out that their P.T.A. had funds to purchase the lot—but nothing to equip it with. The board rallied and bought the lot itself. (And the unit spent \$25 to send a delegate to the state convention instead.)

The playground completed, members wondered whether equipment was forthcoming. Once again they visited the school board and announced, "We have \$275 to buy equipment with, but if we do, we shall deplete our treasury entirely." Again the board responded, this time supplying the equipment. (The unit spent a second \$25 to send a delegate to last year's convention.)

Emphasizing safety this year, the unit decided that fences should enclose the playground to protect passers-by. With \$250 in the treasury, members approached the school board for a third time. The unit was willing to pay the cost but . . .

The board, now fully aware of its responsibility, agreed to finance the fencing itself. The unit scored its point that such expenses should be met out of

public funds, and it still has a reserve in its treasury for P.T.A. projects.

### Season's Choice

To guarantee a good choice of movies for children, particularly during the summer, many P.T.A.'s in New Mexico arrange a series of weekly showings with their local theater, using the *National Parent-Teacher "Motion Picture Previews"* as a guide. Season tickets are sold at \$1.20, and wholesome entertainment is thus provided.

### Home-Front Security

Air Force personnel at Walker Air Base (New Mexico) have a vital stake in the P.T.A., said the commanding officer, Lieut. Col. Hemphill, to delegates attending a district conference. "Here we have two important jobs," he noted, "first, protecting the country from the air, and second, making it strong on the ground—through our parent-teacher activities in working for better homes, better schools, and better communities." Lt. Col. Hemphill is president of the local unit at the base, which played host to the conference group.



• Delegates to the 10th Pan-American Child Congress at Panama City, Panama, included Mrs. Rollin Brown, first vice-president (second row, second from the right), representing the National Congress, Dr. Bess Goodykoontz (at her left), of the U.S. Office of Education, and Mrs. Elisabeth Shirley Enochs (first row, far right), of the Social Security Administration.





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• For "leadership in fostering cooperation with youth-serving agencies," our national president recently received a statuette from the Boy Scouts of America. Presenting the award is Herold C. Hunt, professor of education at Harvard University and advisory editor of the "National Parent-Teacher." At Mrs. Leonard's right is Walter D. Cocking, editor, "School Executive," and chairman of the National Committee on School Relationships of the Boy Scouts of America.

## Destination—

## National Headquarters!

SOON AFTER THEY arrive in Chicago, delegates will have an opportunity to visit national headquarters on one of several guided tours. They will be able to observe for themselves the building they helped construct with nickels, dimes, and quarters. For these "pilgrimages" special buses will provide round-trip transportation between the Hotel Sherman (convention headquarters) and 700 North Rush Street. Hours for each have been arranged so that they will not conflict with convention sessions. (Consult the program outline for exact times.)

Of far-reaching appeal and significance will be the dedication of national headquarters on the evening of May 23. Waurine Walker, president of the National Education Association, will give a special address. This ceremony culminates eight years of planning and activity to create a new center for P.T.A. efforts in behalf of children and youth.

Delegates may obtain tickets for the tours during registration, which begins Sunday, May 22, at the Hotel Sherman. Early arrival and registration will enable delegates to be present for the opening of the convention, Monday morning, May 23. Delegates should bring their membership cards with them.

There still is sufficient time to make hotel reservations at the Sherman, which can accommodate the delegation. Reservation blanks may be secured from your

# NATIONAL CONVENTION • 1955

## • Advance Program Information •

THEME: "Better Homes, Better Schools, Better Communities for a Peaceful Society"

### SUNDAY—May 22, 1955

4:00 p.m.

**VESPER SERVICE**, including a memorial to past national officers and state presidents

Temple Shalom

#### ADDRESS

MARCUS BACH, Professor of religion and associate director, School of Religion, State University of Iowa

6:00 p.m.

Hotel Sherman

**BUFFET SUPPER**: National Life Members

### GENERAL SESSION I

9:30 a.m.

Civic Opera House

### MONDAY—May 23, 1955

**Presiding**: MRS. NEWTON P. LEONARD, President

#### GREETINGS

MRS. MELVIN C. LOCKARD, President, Illinois Congress  
THE HONORABLE WILLIAM G. STRATTON, Governor of Illinois  
BENJAMIN C. WILLIS, Superintendent of Schools, City of Chicago  
MAYOR, City of Chicago

#### RESPONSE

MRS. ROLLIN BROWN, First Vice-president

#### GREETINGS

WAURINE WALKER, President, National Education Association  
MRS. ERNEST EVANS, President, Canadian Home and School and Parent-Teacher Federation

#### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

MRS. NEWTON P. LEONARD

2:00 to 5:30 p.m.

### SECTION MEETINGS

2:00 p.m.  
to 4:00 p.m.

Hotel Sherman

### GENERAL SESSION II

8:00 p.m.

Civic Opera House

#### PILGRIMAGE TO NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1. Organization
2. Councils
3. Communications
4. Action for Better Homes
5. Action for Better Schools
6. Action for Better Communities

**Presiding**: MRS. NEWTON P. LEONARD, President

**MUSIC**: Blue Jacket Choir, United States Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois

**Director**: MARVIN C. GENUCHI

#### INTRODUCTION OF STATE PRESIDENTS

#### DEDICATION OF NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

#### ADDRESS

WAURINE WALKER, President of National Education Association

#### DEDICATION POEM

BONARO W. OVERSTREET, Author, lecturer

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state congress office. The hotel will confirm your reservation directly.

The Civic Opera House will be the scene of the general sessions. The elec-

tion of new national officers will be held at the Hotel Sherman on May 24. Delegates will vote for president, first vice-president, secretary, and treasurer in the forthcoming administration.



## TUESDAY—May 24, 1955

8:30 a.m.  
to 3:30 p.m.Hotel  
Sherman

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

9:30 a.m.  
to 11:30 a.m.SECTION  
MEETINGS9:00 a.m.  
to 11:30 a.m.Hotel  
Sherman

## PILGRIMAGE TO NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1. Organization
2. Councils
3. Communications
4. Action for Better Homes
5. Action for Better Schools
6. Action for Better Communities

11:45 a.m.  
to 2:15 p.m.

## MAGAZINE LUNCHEON

Hotel  
Sherman2:00 p.m.  
to 5:30 p.m.SECTION  
MEETINGS2:30 p.m.  
to 4:30 p.m.Hotel  
Sherman

## PILGRIMAGE TO NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1. Organization
2. Councils
3. Communications
4. Action for Better Homes
5. Action for Better Schools
6. Action for Better Communities

GENERAL  
SESSION III

8:00 p.m.

Civic Opera  
House

## YOUTH PANEL:

"YOUTH'S POINT OF VIEW OF A PEACEFUL SOCIETY"

## REPORT OF ELECTION BOARD

GENERAL  
SESSION IV

9:30 a.m.

Civic Opera  
House

Presiding: MRS. NEWTON P. LEONARD, President

## ADDRESS

HAROLD E. STASSEN, Director, Foreign Operations Administration

GENERAL  
SESSION V

2:00 p.m.

Civic Opera  
House

Presiding: MRS. NEWTON P. LEONARD, President

## REPORT OF FINDINGS COMMITTEE

## Panel Discussion

Participants: Members of Findings Committee

6:00 p.m.  
to 7:30 p.m.Hotel  
Sherman

## REGIONAL DINNERS

- Regions I and IV
- Regions II and III
- Regions V and VII
- Regions VI and VIII

GENERAL  
SESSION VI

8:00 p.m.

Civic Opera  
House

Presiding: MRS. NEWTON P. LEONARD, President

## ADDRESS

JAMES W. CLARKE, Princeton Theological Seminary

## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

## Plans for the . . .

## Dedication Gift

AS THE DATE for the dedication of our national headquarters approaches—May 23—P.T.A. members throughout the states are pooling their final contributions into the Dedication Gift. This sum will be applied to paying off the mortgage on the new building. Since the beginning of the national headquarters fund, \$707,058 has been collected. This seems more remarkable when we realize that the fund is made up of individual contributions of nickels, dimes, and quarters. The largest single donation was \$1,000.

Now the original goal of the headquarters committee—\$750,000—is within reach. All funds received before the national convention in Chicago will be credited to the contributing states at the dedication ceremony. P.T.A. members will be represented by their state presidents on the speakers' platform.

Honor and memorial gifts may also be designated as part of the Dedication Gift, if members so wish. Ten dollars is the minimum contribution for an honor or memorial gift. When this amount (or more) has been given, a special letter is sent from the National Office to the person honored or to the family of the one memorialized. P.T.A.'s should indicate the name of their president and the persons to whom letters should be sent when remitting such gifts. All donations are tax-exempt.

"For many donors the significance of sharing in the Dedication Gift will be very meaningful," says Mrs. Newton P. Leonard. "As we dedicate this building, we shall all be rededicating ourselves and our whole parent-teacher program to the service of children and youth."

## NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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Number 8

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EDITORIAL STAFF OF THE NATIONAL  
CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

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Senior assistant editor: Mary Elinore Smith

Assistant editors: Josephine Costantino, Mrs. Vera Diekhoff, Margaret Reynolds.

## Administration Projects

Assistant editor: Mrs. Cora C. Barron.



P.

T.

A.

## BULLETIN BOARD

Brief Items of Current Interest

- **THE "CHUCK WAGON JAMBOREE,"** a square-dance festival drawing 2,000 young and old "do-see-do-ers," is a big event arranged by the Wellington (Kans.) Council. In a ranch atmosphere borrowed from Western lore, the council raises funds once a year to meet its budget needs—including a provision for two teacher-education scholarships awarded annually.
- **AN ESSAY CONTEST** for seventh- and eighth-graders on "The Value of the P.T.A. in the Community" highlighted Founders Day in the Wrangell (Alaska) P.T.A. The winning essayists were awarded books, copies of which were also given to each class for their school library collection.
- **ANOTHER NEW CONGRESS UNIT** is off to a good start with 103 charter members of a potential 135. The Kempton (Ill.) Consolidated Grade School P.T.A. is sure it can maintain lively interest among all its members, but to guarantee that the man's point of view is well represented members elected man-and-wife teams to each office on the executive committee.
- **THE "P.T.A. SOAPBOX"** is a new panel show, launched by the Hawaii Congress for weekly presentation on KONA-TV. The Soapbox discussions deal with subjects of public and P.T.A. interest. Three or four guests—members of the legislature, community leaders, and others interested in popular issues—are invited to participate in each program. The first topic discussed was "The Role of the Military in the Development of Home Industry."
- **"ALICE IN FOUNDERS' LAND,"** a skit published by the National Congress for Founders Day, was so successfully produced by the Forest Hills P.T.A. (Fort Worth, Texas) that it was televised by WBAP-TV. So impressive was the array of period costumes collected by the group that three neighboring units arranged for a guest performance, while a fourth borrowed the apparel to use in its own presentation.
- **THE SILVER ANNIVERSARY** in parent-teacher service of Mrs. Woods O. Dreyfus was recently marked by the Milwaukee City Council of P.T.A.'s who established a scholarship fund in her honor. High school seniors will compete for two-hundred-dollar grants by submitting an essay entitled, "Why I Chose Teaching as My Profession."
- **TO PREVENT HALLOWEEN ACCIDENTS** that occur when children wear costume masks, the safety committee of the Seattle Council of P.T.A.'s showed youngsters another method of disguise. The committee launched a course in the art of theatrical make-up, teaching children to apply grease paint instead of wearing masks that obscure their vision. Clowns looked as grotesque and pirates as doughty as ever, yet each could now move about without stumbling or tripping.



- It's the story hour in Americus Township (Kansas) Library—a weekly project sponsored by the P.T.A. during the summer. At the far right is Gloyd Pickett, reading and library service chairman of Americus P.T.A., beside Mrs. Esther Tils, librarian. Last year more than 8,000 boys and girls participated in the "reading for pleasure" program established by the University of Kansas and the state congress.
- **HEALTH INFORMATION** to help control disease makes up a good portion of the recently launched newsletter of Fayette (Maine) P.T.A. Bulletins from the local health officers and facts of value to parents coping with infectious and contagious diseases are included.
- **A MASSIVE EDUCATIONAL FLOAT** represented Asa Clark P.T.A. in the Labor Day Parade, at Pewaukee, Wis. Stressing unity between home and school, it featured a tableau of students who portrayed figures from history, science, world affairs, and legend. The purpose of the float, which cost \$10, was to build support for a bigger and better school library. It helped unit membership rise from "a handful" to 322 interested, active adults.
- **MOTHERS' SQUADRONS** were formed by the Ronceverte (W. Va.) Graded School P.T.A. to swing into action on the outbreak of contagious disease or the threat of an epidemic. Their job is to help transport children who become ill at school back to their homes for care.
- **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES** on students' mental, social, physical, and emotional progress are to supplement regular report cards in the public schools of Sheridan, Wyo. Elementary school P.T.A.'s undertook to explain the purposes of such conferences and to stage demonstration conferences for parents in each of the local schools. The new plan for rounded home-school cooperation was enthusiastically approved by the parents.
- **UTILITARIAN VALENTINES** containing needles, buttons, snaps, pins, and other useful articles were sent overseas by the students of Peterson School, Chicago. This was a project of the committee on international and human relations, worked out with the help of the American Friends Service Committee, who will undertake distribution of the much-needed supplies abroad.



**BULLETIN BOARD (Continued)**

- **MORE THAN A MILLION DOLLARS** was added to the budget allocation for the Department of Public Instruction by the governor of Hawaii, thanks to the untiring efforts of the Hawaii Congress. Now assured that current school standards and services will not be reduced, the Hawaii Congress expects favorable action by the legislature on nearly all twenty-two items on its list of objectives.
- **TO EXPAND THEIR READING HORIZONS**, members of Center Valley P.T.A. (Russellville, Ark.) launched their own magazine exchange. Everyone deposits his own periodicals after they're read at the exchange table in the school and picks up others he is interested in. Members thus gain maximum benefit from publications purchased in the community.
- **STATE-WIDE DENTAL EDUCATION** of the public was selected as a project by the New Hampshire Congress convention. The objective is to raise the standard of dental health, thereby improving the general health of children, youth, and adults of the state. Wholehearted, active co-operation has been extended by the dental association and its members throughout New Hampshire.
- **A PARENT-TEACHER leadership training course**, carrying college credit, was sponsored jointly this year by Wayne University's College of Education and the Detroit Council of P.T.A.'s. On satisfactory completion of the eight units of work required, the parent-teacher leader is awarded a certificate co-signed by P.T.A. and college officers.
- **THE BOOKMOBILES AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES** in the First District of the Kentucky Congress were each the recipients of a year's subscription to the *National Parent-Teacher*, purchased for them by the district council.
- **BROTHERHOOD WEEK** was celebrated jointly by the P.T.A.'s of the Bragaw Avenue and the Hawthorne Avenue schools of Newark, N. J. A noted anthropologist, professor at the New York University School of Education, Ethel J. Alpenfels, spoke on "Building Unity Through Understanding." Colorful folk dances, to promote appreciation of other cultures, closed the evening's program.
- **AN ADAPTATION OF "THIS IS YOUR LIFE"** was the vehicle selected by the Hubbard (Ohio) P.T.A. for marking Founders Day. The unit's program honored Maude Reed, who is teaching in the local school system for her 50th year. Members of Miss Reed's family, three fellow students of her own graduating class, and several of her former students made a surprise appearance for the occasion. About 600 people attended the meeting. Letters and telegrams poured in from students and friends. The school where Miss Reed still teaches received an oil portrait of the popular guest of honor.
- **A FILM CLINIC** to acquaint the community with the rich film resources of metropolitan Detroit and to show how they can be used to strengthen the work of schools and parent groups was part of last summer's program of the Detroit Council of P.T.A.'s. Cooperating in the one-day clinic were the Detroit Public Library, the Detroit Public Schools, the University of Michigan, Wayne University, and the Engineering Society of Detroit.

- **THE FATHERS' VIEWPOINT** on teen-age problems was the February program theme of Emerson Junior High P.T.A., Lakewood, Ohio. Six fathers—the "cracker barrel sages"—took part in a panel discussion moderated by the principal. In March, the officers of representative student groups, with the guidance counselor as moderator, will use the same medium to present the students' view.



© Bob W

- This oak tree at Davis School P.T.A. (Hattiesburg, Miss.) is a vivid symbol of its 100 per cent enrollment. Each paper leaf bears the name of a current member. Pictured with the tree (from left to right) are Mrs. Adele Litz, membership chairman, Mrs. A. E. Curry, Jr., unit president, and Sue Reynolds, school principal.

- **A BLUEPRINTED LANDSCAPE PLAN** prepared by the P.T.A. of Santa Fe Trail School (Overland Park, Kans.) shows what plants will most enhance the flat and barren acre around the year-old school. Last fall each student presented one flower bulb to be planted in the seedbed reserved for his class. In all, 1,300 were donated. The school is eagerly waiting for these tulips, hyacinths, gladioli, and jonquils to burst into bloom.
- **A RECEPTION HONORING** representatives to the Wyoming Education Association convention was arranged by the Cheyenne Council. The state congress handed out 1,200 copies of *What You Get, What You Give* to those attending the convention.
- **CAROL LANE AWARDS** (given annually by the National Safety Council for outstanding traffic safety contributions by American women) were bestowed last year on two Oklahoma P.T.A.'s—Yukon, for its outstanding school program, and Jefferson, for a bike safety club organized by one of its members.



**BULLETIN BOARD—Longer Features**

**THE SCHOOL EDUCATION COMMITTEE, Tulsa (Okla.)**  
Council did excellent work in fostering better public understanding of the schools by organizing a workshop for local chairmen.

**Interpretations** at the elementary school level covered the reading program, school organization, children's individual differences, and the importance of kindergartens, special subjects, and permanent student records.

**The most pressing secondary-school problem**—finding a way to keep parents actively interested in P.T.A. work after their children enter high school—was studied and discussed.

**Examining of nation-wide publicity** on the public schools was assigned to a subcommittee, which is to report on the accuracy of such stories and on their possible relation to the local situation.

**Measures to correct the low salaries** of the teaching profession are being explored so that concrete proposals can be made for the solution of this problem.

**PROSPECTIVE TEACHER DAY** is a state-wide observance that takes place on college campuses in Iowa; it may be expected to become an annual event.

**High school students** with their teachers and school officials attend programs stressing the need for a continuing and increasing supply of teachers. Young people are encouraged to enter the profession.

**Interested persons** are given an opportunity to confer with teacher education specialists and to visit classrooms on the campus.

**The observance is backed** by Iowa's department of public instruction, the board of education, the education association, and the commission on teacher education and professional standards.

**This teacher recruitment program** is also supported by business, industrial, and civic groups, service organizations, farm and labor bodies, and the P.T.A.'s.

**THE CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM** of the Cincinnati Council of P.T.A.'s began with the near and the tangible, namely, a study of the city government in action.

**Tours of the city hall** and attendance at a meeting of the city council were scheduled on five different days, so that members from all of the city's units could participate.

**Among the sidelights** explored and explained were the workings of a fire alarm box, fingerprinting and identification techniques, and traffic engineering problems.

### **PUT YOUR P.T.A. ON OUR BULLETIN BOARD!**

What interesting idea, project, program, or activity has your P.T.A. been working on? Tell us about it in, say, 100 words—more or less. We'll extract the "capsule comment" from your longer description. Is there a camera fan in your association? If so, you might include a glossy photo illustrating your news item. Address your contribution as follows:

Editor, National Congress Bulletin  
700 North Rush Street  
Chicago 11, Illinois

**"FLOATING SESSIONS"** were instituted this fall by the Kalamazoo (Mich.) board of education, which is holding its meetings at a different school each time.

**The purpose of such public meetings** is to promote better understanding and cooperation between the community and the school board.

**That the public WANTS to know** what is happening in education was clearly evidenced by a turnout of 150 persons (instead of the usual 10 or 12) at the Westwood School gathering.

**Telescoping its business meeting**, the board devoted the remainder of the session to answering questions about education and related topics.

**A lively question-and-answer period** covered such topics as school construction plans, bus transportation for students, and the pros and cons of a 48-week school year; the board gave practical suggestions and informative answers.

**MILWAUKEE'S FIRST HIGH SCHOOL P.T.A.** was an outgrowth of parent-teacher-counselor conferences at the 9th and 12th grade levels of Rufus King High School.

**Student council representatives** sit on the executive committee and help plan health and safety projects, school-community programs, and school functions.

**CARTER WOODSON SCHOOL (St. Albans, W. Va.)**, as part of its public relations program, planned artistic, seasonal decorations which were painted on the windows by students under teachers' guidance.

**The gaily ornamented building**, from its vantage point on an arterial highway, attracted the attention of hundreds of commuters passing by on their way to and from the city.

**The high cost of water paint** and the low budget for public-relations' work brought the decorating project to an end.

**Complaints poured in** by letter and telephone and from visitors to the school; both the daily passers-by and the people who made special trips to see the painted panes were unhappy.

**The project's importance** to the surrounding community prompted the P.T.A. to allocate funds so that the window decorating could be resumed.

**MASS SWIMMING INSTRUCTION** for children was organized assembly-line style along the Gulf coast by the P.T.A.'s and the Red Cross of Manatee County, Florida.

**Seven shoreline training stations**, each teaching one phase of swimming, were set up and, as the young people progressed in skill, they passed from one station to the next.

**Two hundred parents** volunteered to help or to instruct, and 1,525 children secured written consent to enroll for the six-week water safety training course.

**At the final station**, the lessons of the first six were reviewed; those who passed were awarded the Red Cross "Beginning Swimming" card.

**Intermediate swimming training**, the second half of the program, was designed to eliminate water casualties from the list of accidents that take so many young lives.



# Publications Check List

**H**ERE, for handy reference, is an up-to-date selection of National Congress publications and headquarters souvenirs that you may order from your state congress or directly from the National Office. Within the last twelve months many of these publications have been distributed free in sufficient quantities to supply each unit with at least one copy. Wider use of these valuable tools can increase the effectiveness of all your unit's projects. How many of the publications listed below do you have? Order extra copies now.

## RECENTLY RELEASED

**\*Don't Be a Dropout Parent.**—A membership leaflet on the high school P.T.A. 60 cents per 100; \$5.00 per 1,000.

**101 Questions About Public Education.**—A 96-page booklet that discusses the purposes, achievements, and problems of our public schools. \$1.00 a copy; 5–24 copies, 80 cents each; 25–199 copies, 70 cents each.

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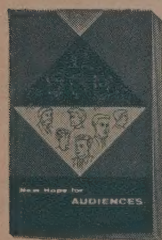
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